

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following title after the paragraph ending on line 10 on page 1:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following title after the paragraph ending on line 13 on page 2:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following title before line 1 on page 4:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following title after the paragraph ending on line 3 on page 15:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following title after the paragraph ending on line 29 on page 15:

EXAMPLES

Please remove the title "CLAIMS" on page 26, line 1, and insert therefor, the following title:

WE CLAIM:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 1 to 4 are photographs of electrophorisis gelgels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 2 shows the antigen profile of *Tropheryma whippelii* obtained by Western blotting, wherein the lanes contain the following:

Lane 1 = immunized mouse serum.

Lane 2 = immunized rabbit serum.

Lane 3= patient serum (IgG + IgM).

Lane 4= monoclonal antibody 1.1.

Lane 5= monoclonal antibody 2.2.

Lane 6= monoclonal antibody 3.3 and

Lane 7= monoclonal antibody 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 4 shows the visualization of the product resulting from the amplification of the *rpoB* gene of *Tropheryma whippelii* with primers SEQ ID Nº NOS:1 and 2 after staining with ethidium bromide, wherein the lanes contain the following:

Lane 1: *Tropheryma whippelii*,

Lane 2: *Nocardia otitidis-caviae*,

Lane 3: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*,

Lane 4: *Staphylococcus epidermidis*,

Lane 5: *Corynebacterium amycolatum*,

Lane 6: *Mycobacterium avium*,

Lane 7: *Escherichia coli*,

Lane 8: H₂O and

Lane 9: H₂O₂

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention therefore relates to the bacterium isolated and established in this way as an antigen source. This bacterium has been deposited in the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (CNCM) (Institut Pasteur, 28, rue du Dr Roux, 75724, Paris Cedex 15, France) CNCM (Paris—France) under Deposit No. no. I-2202 and under the identification reference TWIST-Marseille. The deposit was made on May 19, 1999, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention further relates to a specific antibody directed against the bacterium or an antigen according to the invention, more particularly a polyclonal antibody of animal origin, especially a mouse or rabbit immunoglobulin, or a monoclonal antibody, especially a monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited in the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (CNCM) (Institut Pasteur, 28, rue du Dr Roux, 75724, Paris Cedex 15, France) CNCM of the Institut Pasteur under the registration number Deposit No. I-2411 and under the identification reference TW 17G2. The deposit was made on March 22, 2000, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty.

Please add the Abstract attached hereto.